

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10

DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5085

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2785

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, RQ, US

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24) CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO:

CALL BY FORMER GOVERNOR HERNANDEZ-COLON

1. ON AUGUST 29 FORMER GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO, RAFAEL HERNANDEZ-COLON, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR LEONARD AT THE FORMER'S REQUEST. LEONARD AND MISOFF REVIEWED THE STATE OF PLAY OF C-24 CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO. HERNANDEZ-COLON INDICATED HIS WISH TO BE HELPFUL IN ANY WAY THAT WE DEEMED APPROPRIATE AND ASKED OUR COMMENTS ON HIS DRAFT LETTER TO C-24 CHAIRMAN SALIM (TANZANIA) REITERATING THE POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S (PDP) REJECTION OF THE COMMITTEE'S COMPETENCE TO CONSIDER PUERTO RICO. LEONARD AND MISOFF SUGGESTED NARROWING THE FOCUS OF THE LETTER (WHICH ADDRESSED POSSIBLE CONCERNS BY MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ABOUT PUERTO RICO) AND INCLUDING A STATEMENT THAT THE TWO PDP MEMBERS WHO APPEARED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE THIS YEAR HAD DONE SO IN THEIR PERSONAL CAPACITIES WITHOUT ANY OFFICIAL PDP CACHET. THE GOVERNOR AGREED AND ALSO INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO TALK INFORMALLY WITH ANY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WITH WHOM WE MIGHT DEEM IT USEFUL. HE WILL BE IN NEW YORK THROUGH FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2.

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2. INDICATING THAT WE BELIEVE A CONSENSUS WILL EMERGE THIS YEAR, WE NEVERTHELESS QUERIED HERNANDEZ-COLON ABOUT HIS VIEWS ABOUT THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF C-24 ADOPTION OF THE CUBAN DRAFT RESOLUTION. HE SAID ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION WOULD POSE "SERIOUS PROBLEMS" WITHIN PUERTO RICO. IN PARTICULAR IT WOULD POLARIZE THE STATUS

QUESTION BY ERODING THE MIDDLE GROUND AND WOULD INVITE FURTHER ACTS OF VIOLENCE BY THOSE OPPOSING STATEHOOD. ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT, HE SAID, OF DENYING THE "VALIDITY" AND "DIGNITY" OF COMMONWEALTH STATUS. ADOPTION WOULD ALSO ENABLE THE PRESENT GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO TO CALL FOR A RESOLUTION IN 1980 OR 1981 WHICH WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT INCLUDE THE COMMONWEALTH OPTION BUT RATHER ONLY STATEHOOD OR INDEPENDENCE. HERNANDEZ-COLON STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT, IF THE RESOLUTION WERE TO BE ADOPTED, THE US RESPOND WITH A PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT MAKING EXPLICIT THAT THE ALTERNATIVES FOR SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PUERTO RICO, ANY OF WHICH THE PRESIDENT WOULD SUPPORT, INCLUDE STATEHOOD, COMMONWEALTH, OR INDEPENDENCE. SUCH A STATEMENT, HE SAID, WOULD AVOID POLARIZATION AND WOULD IMMEDIATELY STABILIZE THE SITUATION IN PUERTO RICO AND REDUCE THE DANGER OF INCREASED VIOLENCE.

LEONARD

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 30-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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